

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
PROBATE COURT  
DISTRICT OF SOUTHBURY**

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**Thomas M. Sutnik**  
*Judge*

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To: Honorable Senate Chairman Andrew J. McDonald  
Honorable House Chairman Michael P. Lawlor  
Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee

From: Thomas M. Sutnik, Probate Judge, District of Southbury

Re: H.B. No. 6007

I thank you for giving me the opportunity to address the Judiciary Committee in support of bill, H.B. No. 6007, which would merge the Roxbury Probate Court with the Southbury Probate Court forming a district consisting of the two towns housed in the Southbury Probate Court. The agreement between the towns was reached after both performed due diligence. The communities understand that economies of scale would be achieved. Further, the communities examined staffing requirements, capacity of the staff, hours of operation, geographic accessibility and ease of use and sufficiency of the facility. All needs of the communities for probate services would be satisfied.

One particular example of meeting needs involves an examination of physical plant. Over the last few years, Southbury has made various improvements to existing or construction of new facilities. The probate court was a beneficiary of these changes. The recently upgraded court facility in Southbury has approximately 3,000 square feet of space and can comfortably accommodate the increased operational requirements resulting from a merger. In fact, no greater burden is placed on Southbury capital resources. Moreover, Roxbury benefits as it can use the space previously occupied by its Court for other town purposes.

Finally, the two towns have shown a spirit of cooperation, achieved through candid discussions, that will make the joint effort a success for both communities. For all the foregoing reasons, I ask the Committee to act favorably on H.B. No. 6007.